BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

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- **British Columbia's unemployment rate edged up to 6.8% in November**
- **The number of homicide victims in B.C. rose 3.8% in 2011**
- **Investment in residential building construction jumped 10.6% in the third quarter**

Labour Force

- **In November, B.C.'s unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 6.8% (*seasonally adjusted*).** The number of persons participating in the labour force fell by 4,600, while the number employed declined by 4,700. Nearly all of the employment losses in November were in part-time (-4,700) versus full time (-100) employment.

  The goods-producing sector was up 7,100 jobs in November with forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas posting job gains (+8,900).

  Employment on the services-producing side declined by 11,800 jobs. The largest gains were reported in professional, scientific and technical services (+11,900), however these job gains were not enough to offset the losses in "other" services, business, building and other support services, health care and social assistance, and transportation and warehousing. The other industries remained relatively unchanged. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **At the national level, employment rose by 59,300 in November and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points to 7.2% (*seasonally adjusted*).** Employment gains were concentrated in full-time employment. Employment increased in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. There was little change in the other provinces. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In November, when compared to the previous month, the Aboriginal population's (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) unemployment rate remained unchanged (11.1%), but was 3.5 percentage points below the same time last year (14.6%).** Primarily driven by losses (-900) in part-time employment, the employment rate fell 0.7 percentage points to 57.1%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **November marked the third straight month of increases (+0.4 percentage points) in the unemployment rate (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) of newly-landed immigrants (5 years or less), edging up to 12.1 percent.** The unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage points greater than in November of last year (11.5%). November's unemployment rate increase was driven by the labour force contracting (-5.1%) at a faster rate than the number of unemployed (-1.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The average weekly wage in B.C. was $859.57 in November, below the national average of $874.04.** Younger workers, (15 to 24 years old), earned an average of $407.38 weekly, whereas core age workers (25 to 55) earned $951.23, and those over the age of 55 earned $923.00. The average hourly rate in B.C. was $23.78 in November, slightly lower than the national average of $23.89. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Housing

- **Residential building construction investment in B.C. jumped 10.6% (*unadjusted*) in the third quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2011.** Investment in new dwellings rose (+16.0%), as apartment construction (+41.8%) soared to the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2008. Investment in single

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Did you know...

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation was identified as the favourite holiday movie of 18.5% of British Columbians, just slightly more popular than Miracle on 34th Street (18.1%).

Source: Ipsos Reid

(+4.8%) and double (+8.7%) family dwellings rose, but contracted in row housing (–11.6%) and conversions (–10.4%).

Nationally, investment in residential building construction was up 9.4%, with growth in Quebec (+8.6%), Ontario (+5.9%), and Alberta (+20.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities fell 17.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October, as both residential (–16.9%) and non-residential (–19.0%) construction intentions contracted.** Kelowna was the only census metropolitan area (CMA) that recorded an upswing (+152.0%), while planned spending was down in Abbotsford-Mission (–84.3%), Vancouver (–40.3%), and Victoria (–31.0%).

  Nationally, permits values rose 15.0%, largely due to a rise in non-residential permits (+50.3%), as residential permit values dipped (–4.1%). The increase was driven by strong intentions in Ontario (+39.2%), Quebec (+19.2%), and Manitoba (+25.4%), but hampered by slowdowns in Alberta (–1.0%) and B.C. (–17.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued year-to-date in B.C. was 21.8% higher than in the first ten months of 2011.** The value of permits in Mainland/Southwest (+26.3%) rose, as growth in Greater Vancouver (+31.2%) offset dampened activity in Fraser-Valley (–26.3%).

  Permit values in the Vancouver Island/Coast (–10.1%), Thompson/Okanagan (–4.5%), Nechako (–0.3%) and Northeast (–3.1%) regions all declined. At the same time, activity in North Coast (+688.4%) soared, and strengthened in Kootenay (+6.9%) and Cariboo (+9.1%). Industrial permits in B.C. were up 180.6%, with over half ($482 million) of the value of permits originating in Kitimat-Stikine (+1975.4%), reflecting a surge in planned spending in the Kitimat area.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Investment in non-residential building construction declined (–6.6%, *unadjusted*) in the third quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2011.** The contraction was due to lower levels of institutional and government investment (–28.4%), as industrial investment continued to climb (+45.6%), and commercial investment edged down slightly (–0.1%).

  Nationally, investment in non-residential building construction was flat (–0.0%), with activity in Quebec (+7.3%), Manitoba (+15.1%), Saskatchewan (+26.0%), and Alberta (+5.9%) on the rise, and declines recorded across the Maritime Provinces and Ontario (–3.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **There were 87 (+3.8%) victims of homicide in British Columbia in 2011, up from 83 in 2010.** Nine of them were victims of spousal homicide. The homicide rate (*per 100,000 of the population*) rose to 1.9, slightly above the national average (1.7). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, there were 598 (+6.8%) homicide victims in 2011.** Among the provinces, Manitoba had the highest homicide rate (4.2), followed by Saskatchewan (3.6), and Alberta (2.9). Prince Edward Island (0.69) and Newfoundland and Labrador (0.78) recorded the lowest homicide rates in the country.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The most common methods used to commit homicide were stabbing (34.1%), shooting (26.4%), and beating (20.9%).** Strangulation (6.7%), fire (3.5%), other (4.5%) and unknown (3.5%) methods accounted for the remaining homicides. There was a marked increase in the number of homicides due to fire (+90.9%), while victims of shootings fell (–7.6%) to the lowest level (158) recorded since 2002 when there were 152. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,622.6	1.0
Canada	34,880.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep 2012	3,176	-1.2
Merchandise Exports - Sep 2012	2,636	6.8
Retail Sales - Sep 2012	5,090	0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Oct 2012)		
BC	0.5	1.4
Vancouver	0.7	1.6
Victoria	0.3	1.3
Canada	1.2	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-4.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,480.2	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.7	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	167.5	0.1
		Oct 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	6.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Dec 5/2012	Dec 7/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Dec 5/2012	Dec 7/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9912	1.0105
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0084	0.9898
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov 2012	one year ago
BC	859.57	1.4
Canada	874.04	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Open Data, Census Area Profiles NEW – 2001 files added

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics, November 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Nov 2012

Released next week

- Exports, October 2012

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